



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.2420 | FAX (517) 373.2764

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Contact: Karen Szczepanski  
(517) 373-2420

## Garcia Helps Korean War Veterans Obtain New Service Medal

Lansing-State Senator Valde Garcia (R-Howell) is now helping process Korean War Service Medal applications. Authorized by Congress, this new decoration is now being issued by the Republic of Korea to military members who served in the Korean conflict between June 25, 1950 and July 27, 1953.

“I am glad to help honor the many service members who answered their nation’s call to duty during the Korean War,” Garcia said. “It is never too late to pay tribute and extend our gratitude to the many heroes during that time.”

Service must have been performed in the country of Korea, its territorial waters or its airspace for 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days, or while as a crew member on aircraft participating in combat operations or in support of combat operations.

Veterans who served in Japan, Guam, Okinawa, the Philippines or other countries are not eligible.

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Applications must include a copy of one of the following:

- A 1950s-era DD Form 214, issued for service in Korea and showing the Korean Service Medal and United Nations Service Medal (DD Forms 214/215 with Korean Service Medal and Bronze Service Stars are acceptable);
- A DD Form 215 showing the Korean Service Medal and United Nations Service Medal; or
- An NGB Form 22.

Additional documents that may be submitted to help prove eligibility are:

- Assignments orders to and from the area of eligibility;
- Temporary duty orders and travel vouchers; or
- Citations for decorations showing service in the area.

Next of kin may apply using similar documentation, including (for members killed in action) any official military or civil document reflecting the death of the veteran (such as a death certificate, report of casualty or official death notification telegrams).

There are a limited number of medals available. Service members or their families must apply for the medal no later than June 1, 2003.

For more information, contact Senator Garcia's office at (800) 516-0026. Senator Garcia is planning a ceremony to present the medals. The date is yet to be determined.